

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for the production of sheets or tiles in agglomerate material ~~including products comprising at least one of a marble component, and/or a granite component, and/or a sand component, and/or a quartz component, powders and further~~ including binding resins, the method comprising the steps of:

crushing ~~of the~~ components of the sheets or tiles;

mixing ~~the of these~~ components with the aforesaid binding resins to form a mixture;

positioning a metal plate inside a pressing die, the metal plate defined by a top face, a bottom face, and side walls between the top face and bottom face, the metal plate having a structure comprising a series of cavities suitable for receiving the mixture of the components;

pouring the mixture ~~these components~~ inside the a-pressing die;

pressing and compacting the mixture ~~these components~~; and

hardening the mixture such that the components bond to the metal plate to form a single object with the sheet or tile, the mixture hardened at a predetermined pressure and temperature, in order to obtain a predetermined shape, advantageously quadrangular, and predetermined dimensions of these sheets or tiles, ~~wherein before or during the pouring stage, a metal plate is positioned inside the pressing die, said metal plate having a structure comprising a series of cavities suitable for receiving the mixture of the components which, during the polymerisation and hardening stages, bond to said plate thus forming a single object with said sheet or tile.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the metal plate is obtained by die-pressing or rolling.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

smoothing and polishing of at least one of the upper and/or lower surfaces of these sheets or tiles; and

cutting to size, chamfering, gauging and flaring of these sheets or tiles.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A sheet or tile made from an agglomerated material including a mixture of products comprising marble and/or granite and/or sand and/or quartz powders and binding resins, wherein an inner or base portion of said sheet or tile is constituted by a metal plate having a structure comprising a series of cavities and protuberances receiving the said mixture of products and such as to allow, during the polymerisation and hardening of the mixture, the bonding of the plate which thus forms a single object with the sheet or tile.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The sheet or tile of claim 4, in which the metal plate is made from aluminum.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The sheet or tile of claim 4, wherein the metal plate comprises of a plurality of cavities and/or of protuberances designed to facilitate the adherence of the mixture to the plate.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The sheet or tile of claim 4, wherein the metal plate forms the base of the sheet or tile.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The sheet or tile of claim 4, wherein the metal plate is embedded in the sheet or tile.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agglomerate material further comprises inclusions of elements made from metal, glass, ceramic, wood, or precious stones.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The sheet of claim 4, wherein the agglomerate material further comprises inclusions of elements made from metal, glass, ceramic, wood, or precious stones.

Claim 11 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the top face of the metal plate has a flat outer perimeter surrounding the cavities.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the hardened mixture completely covers the top face of the metal plate.

Claim 13 (new): A method for the production of sheets or tiles in agglomerate material that eliminate electrostatic charges, the agglomerate material comprising at least one of a marble component, a granite component, a sand component, and a quartz component, and further including binding resins, the method comprising the steps of:

- crushing the components of the sheets or tiles;
- mixing the components with the aforesaid binding resins to form a mixture;
- positioning a metal plate inside a pressing die, the metal plate having a structure comprising a series of cavities suitable for receiving the mixture of the components;
- pouring the mixture inside the pressing die;
- pressing and compacting the mixture; and
- hardening the mixture such that the components bond to the metal plate to form a single object with the sheet or tile, the mixture hardened at a predetermined pressure and temperature, in order to obtain a predetermined shape, advantageously quadrangular, and predetermined dimensions of these sheets or tiles.

Claim 14 (new): A method for the production of sheets or tiles in agglomerate material comprising at least one of a marble component, a granite component, a sand component, and a quartz component, and further including binding resins, the method comprising the steps of:

- crushing the components of the sheets or tiles;
- mixing the components with the aforesaid binding resins to form a mixture;
- positioning a metal plate inside a pressing die, the metal plate defined by a top face, a bottom face, and side walls between the top face and bottom face, the metal plate having a structure comprising a series of cavities suitable for receiving the mixture of the components and a flat outer perimeter on the top face surrounding the series of cavities;
- pouring the mixture inside the pressing die such that the mixture completely covers the top face of the metal plate;
- pressing and compacting the mixture; and
- hardening the mixture such that the components bond to the metal plate to form a single object with the sheet or tile, the mixture hardened at a predetermined pressure and temperature,

in order to obtain a predetermined shape, advantageously quadrangular, and predetermined dimensions of these sheets or tiles.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the side walls have top and bottom ends, the top and bottom ends being flush with the top and bottom faces respectively.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the side walls do not extend above the top face of the metal plate.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the top face and bottom face ends at a top and bottom extremity of the side walls.